

## IBM and International Paper Sign Agreements for Innovative Projects

EPA recently signed separate Project XL agreements with IBM and International Paper Company giving the companies flexibility in implementing innovative projects to achieve environmental benefits.

The agreement with IBM will allow its facility in Essex Junction, Vermont regulatory flexibility in handling wastewater treatment sludge from a new manufacturing process for producing computer chips. This new process also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption. As part of the agreement, EPA has promised to redefine as “non-hazardous” the waste coming out of the process. The new process uses an electroplating technique to deposit copper onto the chips. The rinse waters from this process are combined with other wastewaters, which produces a sludge that is officially regulated as hazardous waste because all wastewaters from plating processes are defined as hazardous. Since copper is not considered hazardous in this waste stream, EPA was willing to make this redefinition.

The redefinition will provide the same level of environmental protection while allowing the company to continue its innovative manufacturing process. It also

acknowledges the environmental benefits associated with this new process. If successful, use of this process at other facilities could achieve similar greenhouse gas reductions and energy savings benefitting both the environment and business. The new project will run for five years at the Essex Junction facility.

Also as part of the agreement, IBM will make other changes to its manufacturing processes to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions by a total of 40 percent at its Essex Junction plant.

The Project XL agreement with International Paper Company will reduce by approximately half of current levels of several key wastewater pollutants from its Jay, Maine mill that are discharged into the Androscoggin River. The company will install innovative technologies that will remove spent pulping liquors used to turn wood chips into pulp, while at the same time improving pulp quality. Pollution will be reduced to less than the level allowed under the Clean Water Act. Under Project XL, EPA will allow International Paper to replace those requirements with targeted, facility-specific effluent improvement projects in exchange for accepting new water quality permit limitations.

This announcement follows an earlier project agreement signed with International Paper on April 20. The first XL project allowed the company to develop and use a first-of-its-kind monitoring technology for its waste fuel incinerator. The technology will make information about air emissions immediately available to residents and will help the company make greater reductions in air pollution more quickly.

EPA's Project XL (eXcellence and Leadership) is a national pilot program that allows state and local governments and businesses to develop with EPA innovative strategies to test better and more cost-effective ways of achieving environmental and public health protection. Under the program, EPA will provide participants with regulatory flexibility to conduct experiments if specific XL criteria are met. Among the required criteria are: superior environmental results beyond those that would have been achieved under existing regulations and policies, high potential for transferring the technology to other facilities; a strong history of environmental compliance; and, strong support from stakeholder groups. More information is available at: [www.epa.gov/projectxl](http://www.epa.gov/projectxl).

### Resource Guide for Lithographic Printers Now Available

“Preventing Pollution: An Environmental Resource for Lithographic Printers” CD-ROM is now available. This CD-ROM includes state specific regulatory requirements for all New England states, pollution prevention information, tools to implement pollution prevention projects and contacts for more information. To obtain a free copy of the CD, please call Janet Bowen of EPA New England at 617.918.1795 or toll-free (from within New England) at 1.888.372.7341.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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## September 26

### **Environmental Management Systems for Colleges & Universities**

Boston University Corporate Education Center Auditorium  
Tyngsboro, Mass.

8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For administrative, environmental health and safety, and facility staff. Learn about EMS's and hear from colleges and universities that have an EMS in place. Sponsored by EPA New England, Boston University and the Campus Consortium for Environmental Excellence. \$40. For more information contact Peggy Bagnoli of EPA at 617.918.1828 or

Joan Jouzaitis of EPA at 617.918.1846.

## September 26

### **Workshop: Best Practices for Metal Finishing Line Operators**

Heatbath

Springfield, Mass.

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Do your platers and anodizers understand how their actions are affecting your raw material use, waste generation and bottom-line profits? This is a "hands-on" training where good operating practices will be demonstrated and their effects on drag out reduction, wastewater conservation, and process efficiency will be measured. Sponsored by EPA New England and the National Metal Finishing Strategic Goals Program. Free. Attendance is limited so please register early. For more information contact Linda Darveau of EPA at 617.918.1718.

## September 27

### **Workshop: Best Practices for Metal Finishing Line Operators**

Tyco Electronics

Waltham, Mass.

3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

See description for September 26.

## September 28

### **Workshop: Best Practices for Metal Finishing Line Operators**

Federal Metal Finishing

Charlestown, Mass.

9:00 a.m. to noon

See description for September 26.

## September 28

### **Workshop: Best Practices for Metal Finishing Line Operators**

AT Cross

Lincoln, R.I.

4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

See description for September 26.

## October 24 & 25

### **Stormwater Course**

Newport, R.I.

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Covers both the existing Phase I NPDES storm water rule and the new Phase II rule. Sponsored by EPA's Washington office. Free. For more information visit EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov.owm/sw/training/>

## October 26

### **Phase II Storm Water Workshop**

Newport, R.I.

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Provides an introduction to the new Phase II storm water rule. Sponsored by EPA Headquarters. Free. For more information visit EPA's web site at <http://www.epa.gov.owm/sw/training/>

## November 30

### **Stormwater & Your Community: Workshop & Trade Show**

Center of New Hampshire

Manchester, N.H.

8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

One day workshop and trade show to help municipalities and construction firms understand and comply with EPA's new stormwater Phase II requirements. \$30. Sponsored by EPA's New England office, University of New Hampshire Technology Transfer Center, N.H. Office of State Planning, N.H. Department of Environmental Services, N.H. Department of Transportation and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Commission. For more information call Jack Healey, EPA, at 617.918.1844.

## December 4

### **Stormwater & Your Community: Workshop & Trade Show**

Sturbridge Host Hotel & Conference Center

Sturbridge, Mass.

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

See description for November 30. Sponsored by EPA New England, Bay State Roads, Mass. Department of Environmental Protection and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Commission. For more information call Abby Swaine, EPA, at 617.918.1841.

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## Cooperative Effort with Businesses Will Reward Higher Environmental Performance

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has elevated its efforts to work with regulated facilities that have achieved a higher level of environmental performance that goes beyond legal compliance requirements. Under the National Environmental Performance Track program, which was launched on June 26, the agency will reward facilities that exceed minimum regulatory requirements and that have taken extra steps to reduce and prevent pollution. These facilities are setting the pace in demonstrating ways to increase protection of public health and the environment.

Performance Track, which in many ways mirrors EPA New England's Star Track program, is intended for top performing facilities and companies with a proven record of regulatory compliance, an operational Environmental Management System, and a demonstrated commitment to continued improvement and outreach to the local community and the public.

Performance will be defined for two levels. The National Environmental Achievement track rewards companies that have a strong compliance record and have raised the bar by setting up an Environmental Management System, voluntarily reducing pollution and making commitments to further environmental improvement. The second tier, the National Environmental

Stewardship track which is still being developed, will be for organizations that are helping to define best practices within their industries and are leading the way in protection of the environment.

Through Project XL, the Common Sense Initiative, the Environmental Leadership Program as well as Star Track and various state programs, many companies have achieved exceptional environmental and economic dividends and improved relations with customers and stakeholders. The Performance Track program is a culmination of these programs.

Benefits for participants in Performance Track include national recognition, regulatory and administrative flexibility, a more cooperative relationship with EPA, a reduction in both record keeping and reporting requirements, and flexibility in meeting certain regulatory requirements.

The deadline for applications is September 30. More information is available at: [www.epa.gov/performance-track](http://www.epa.gov/performance-track). E-mail inquiries can be directed to: [ptrack@indecon.com](mailto:ptrack@indecon.com).

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## Green Building Products Software Available

EPA is making available a new version of a software package for selecting cost-effective, green building products. Aimed at designers, builders, and product manufacturers, the software program, "Building for Environmental and Economic Sustainability" or BEES 2.0, is based on standards agreed to by the EPA, industry and public interest groups. The new version includes actual environmental and economic performance data for over 65 building products, twice as many as BEES 1.0. The package was developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the Building and Fire Research Laboratory, with support from EPA's Preferable Purchasing Program and the HUD Partnership for Advancing Technology In Housing. The system assesses the following environmental impacts for building products: ozone depletion, smog, ecological and human toxicity, global warming, acid rain, eutrophication, natural resource depletion, indoor air quality and solid waste. The new version is available at: [www.bfrl.nist.gov/oe/bees.html](http://www.bfrl.nist.gov/oe/bees.html). A compact disc and manual can be ordered through the EPA Pollution Prevention Information Clearinghouse at 202.260.1023 or e-mail: [ppic@epa.gov](mailto:ppic@epa.gov).

To find out more about EPA's Phase II stormwater requirements visit our web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/owm/sw/phase2/>

Visit EPA New England's College & University web page at:

<http://www.epa.gov/region01/steward/univ>

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# NEEATeam ROSTER

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Read *Pollution Prevention & the Bottom Line* on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/region01/steward/neeat/>

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